

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

688

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Adolph Bloettner Monument

other names/site number JF-EC-19

2. Location

street & number Cave Hill Cemetery not for publication NA  
city or town Louisville vicinity NA  
state Kentucky code KY county Jefferson code 056  
zip code 40204

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination      request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets      does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant      nationally      statewide X locally. (     See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

David L. Morgan  
Signature of certifying official

4-23-97  
Date

David L. Morgan, SHPG  
Kentucky Heritage Council, State Historic Preservation Office  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property      meets      does not meet the National Register criteria. (     See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official      Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- Entered in the National Register  See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register  See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register other (explain):

Edson H. Beall 7/17/97  
 Signature of Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	buildings
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	sites
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	structures
<u>  1  </u>	<u>      </u>	objects
<u>  1  </u>	<u>      </u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register   0  

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

      Civil War Monuments in Kentucky, 1861-1935      

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat:    Other: Civil War Monument Sub:       

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat:    Other: Civil War Monument Sub:

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

NA

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation

roof NA

walls NA

other Limestone

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.) (See attached)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

X A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

X B removed from its original location.

C a birthplace or a grave.

D a cemetery.

E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

X F a commemorative property.

G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Social History

Period of Significance 1861 - 1935

Significant Dates cir. 1861

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

NA

Cultural Affiliation NA

Architect/Builder Adolph Bloettner, sculptor

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)  
(SEE ATTACHED)

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Location of Additional Data

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing	
1	16 611840	4233920	3	_____	_____	Quad. - <u>Louisville East</u>
2	_____	_____	4	_____	_____	
<input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.						

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)  
(See attached)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Joseph E. Brent, Historic Sites Data Coordinator

organization Kentucky Heritage Council date \_\_\_\_\_

street & number 300 Washington Street telephone (502) 564-7005

city or town Frankfort state KY zip code 40601

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Additional Documentation

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Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

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Property Owner

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(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name LeRoy Squires, Superintendent  
Cave Hill Cemetery

street & number 701 Baxter Avenue telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town Louisville state KY zip code 40204

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Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Adolph Bloettner Monument  
Jefferson County, Kentucky

Section number \_7, 8, 10\_

Page 1

**Description** The Adolph Bloettner Monument is a small tombstone carved of limestone. The monument is approximately three feet high and some six feet wide and about a foot deep. The face of the monument has an eagle perched atop of crossed cannon and flags with cannon balls beneath the cannon. Laurel and oak leaves are to the right and left respectively. There is an inscription in German on the face of the monument, most of which has fallen away. Below on the base of the monument is an inscription in English that reads: "In Memory of the First Victims of the 32nd Ind. Vol. Who Fell at the Battle of Rowletts Station December 17, 1861."

**Statement of Significance** The Adolph Bloettner Monument meets National Register criterion A and is significant within the context of "Civil War monuments in Kentucky, 1861-1935." This is probably the first Civil War monument erected to the Union in Kentucky. It was carved by Adolph Bloettner, a member of the 32 Indiana Volunteers who fought in the Battle of Rowletts Station in December 1861. The monument was created after the battle to honor and mark the graves of the men killed in that battle. The monument was erected at Fort Willach near Munfordville where the men were buried. The monument was moved in 1869 when the bodies were exhumed and moved to the National Cemetery in Cave Hill by the United States government. It is a good example of the property type "tombstone." It is also the only monument to have an inscription in a language other than English or Latin.

**Verbal Boundary Description** - The Adolph Bloettner Monument whose boundaries form a circle with a radius of ten feet centered on the monument located in the National Cemetery portion of Cave Hill Cemetery.

**Verbal Boundary Justification** - The area associated with the monument is restricted to the ground on which the monument sits and a small buffer around it. The setting outside such a restricted area is not seen as critically important to maintaining an integrity of association. Because the focus of the multiple property submissions is the significance of the monuments, their proposed area of listing will reflect that they have been considered by-and-large, in isolation from their surrounds.

United States Department of the Interior  
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CONTINUATION SHEET

Adolph Bloettner Monument  
Jefferson County, Kentucky

Section number \_9\_

Page 1

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**Books:**

Baruch, Mildred, C. And Ellen J. Beckman, Civil War Union Monuments, (Washington, D. C., Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War, 1978)

Coulter, E. Merton, The Civil War and Readjustment in Kentucky, (Chapel Hill, University of North Carolina Press, 1926)

Harrison, Lowell, H., The Civil War in Kentucky, (Lexington, University of Kentucky Press, 1975)

Kleber, John E., etal, The Kentucky Encyclopedia, (Lexington, University Press of Kentucky, 1992)

McConnell, Stuart, Glorious Contentment: The Grand Army of the Republic, 1865-1900, (Chapel Hill, NC, University of North Carolina Press, 1992)

Tapp, Hambelton and James C. Klotter, Kentucky: Decades of Discord: 1865-1900, (Frankfort, KY, Kentucky Historical Society, 1977)

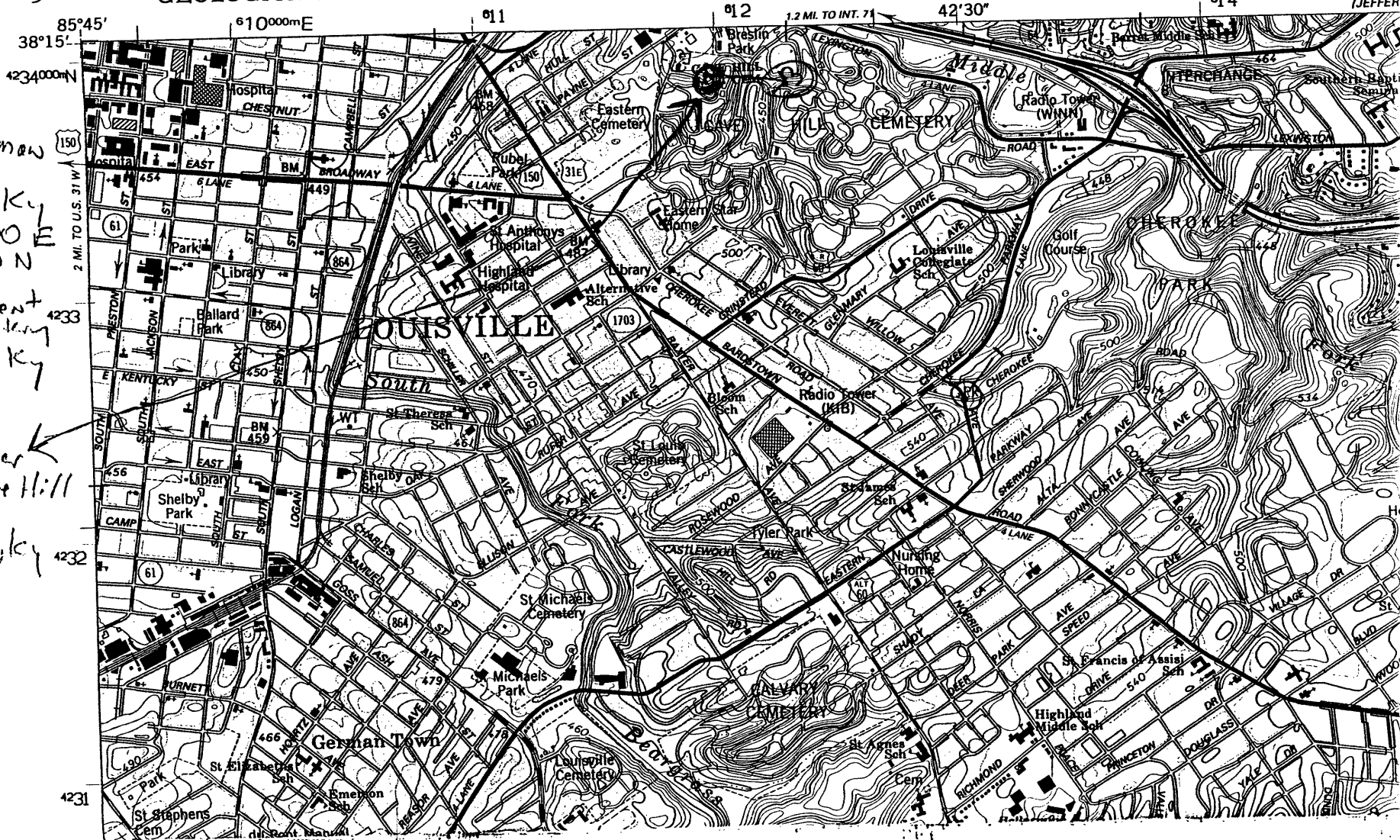
Thomas, Samuel W., Cave Hill Cemetery: A Pictorial Guide and Its History, (Louisville, 1985).

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Louisville East Quad  
Jefferson County, KY

3860 N 5E  
(NEW ALBANY)

3864  
JEFFER

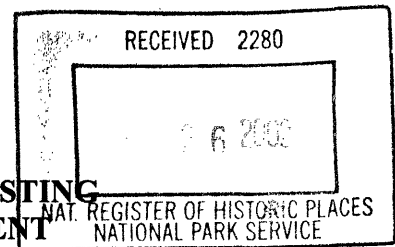


1. John B. Castleman  
MONUMENT  
Jefferson Co., Ky  
UTM 16/613000 E  
4232560 N

2. Union Monument  
Cave Hill Cemetery  
Jefferson Co., Ky  
UTM 16  
611920 E  
4233940 N

3. Adolph Bloethner  
MONUMENT, Cave Hill  
Cemetery  
Jefferson Co., Ky  
UTM 16  
611940 E  
4233920 N





**CORRECTION TO NATIONAL REGISTER LISTING  
OF THE ADOLPH BLOETTNER MONUMENT**

**JUSTIFICATION**

Attached herewith are copies of documents which will justify the correction of the National Register listing of the ADOLPH BLOETTNER MONUMENT located in Cave Hill Cemetery, Louisville, Kentucky, to read the AUGUST BLOEDNER MONUMENT.

1. Current National Register listing and background information and description.
2. Draft copy of research on the life of August Bloedner by John M. Trowbridge.
3. Indiana Adjutant General's Report for Company F, 32<sup>nd</sup> Indiana Infantry Regiment, listing August Bloedner. Soldier's Record on August Bloedner indicating his service in Company F and I of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Indiana Infantry Regiment.
4. Newspaper article from the Indianapolis Daily Journal, 31 January 1862. The article describes the large stone inscribed in German that marks the dead of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Indiana at the Battle of Rowlett's Station.
5. Copy of Second Lieutenant Adolph Metzner's sketch of the graves and the Bloedner monument when it was located in Hart County, Kentucky, January 1862.
6. Williams' Cincinnati Directory, June 1869. Lists Bloetner, August, as a marble cutter.
7. Hamilton County, Ohio Death Records 1870-1873. Lists death of August Bloedner 11/14/1872, his occupation was Stonemason.

I have drawn my conclusion that this monument should be listed the August Bloedner Monument from the fact that:

1. A through search of Civil War records for the 32<sup>nd</sup> Indiana indicates that no one by the name of Adolph Bloettner served in that command.
2. My research indicates that August Bloedner was a trained sculptor prior to immigrating to the United States and that following his military service in the Civil War he returned to his home in Cincinnati, Ohio and continued in that profession. The monument itself clearly indicates that a skilled artisan sculpted it.
3. As to its being the oldest surviving Civil War Monument: The newspaper article and sketch by Lieutenant Metzner places its creation at least prior to 31 January 1862.

It is understood that this name change is a minor change from what is currently listed on the National Register. During my research I have come across numerous spellings of Bloedner's name, however, I've never seen him listed as Adolph. There currently is an effort being made to preserve what remains of this monument, especially with this new information that this is currently the oldest surviving Civil War Monument in the United States. On February 2, 2002, a program will be conducted in Louisville at Cave Hill Cemetery, to honor this monument and the men of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Indiana, followed by a symposia conducted at the Louisville German-American Club, about the history of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Indiana, Bloedner and his monument and the current preservation efforts.

Request your consideration and approval of this request.

## AUGUST BLOEDNER (1825-1872)

1 March 1827, Christian Friedrich August Bloedner was born in Altenburg, Thuringia, Germany. The only child of Johann Casper and Johanne Christiane (Birkmeyer) Bloedner. Johann and Johanne were married in 1820 in the garrison church at Altenburg. Johann was a pensioned/retired Gendarme [Policeman]. The Bloedners belong to the Evangelic – Lutheran Church (Protestant).

8 August 1836, Johann Casper Bloedner, died in Altenburg.

From 1841 until Easter 1844, during his free time Bloedner attended the Art and Craft School in Altenburg. He studied sculpture under the German sculptor, Hesse, Sr.; painting, Dietrich and Professor Lange. During this time Bloedner was busy with modeling (making models) and drawing, later he did stonework. Soon after he left Altenburg, in order to study at the Royal Academy of Fine Arts at Dresden.

Between the years 1845 and 1849, there are several letters in the archives at Thuringisches from Bloedner and his mother for student support.

In 1847, August is entered on the conscription list for military service.

January 1849, Johanne's last letter requesting student support for August. She explains that August has been sick with gout since Christmas 1848. In the fall of 1849, the duke's finance council indicates Bloedner had not made any further requests for support.

He came to the United States ca. 1849, eventually settling in Cincinnati, Ohio, ca. 1854.

*Note: Try to locate passenger information and Oath/Intent of allegiance.*

24 October 1854, Johanne Christiane Bloedner, died in Altenburg.

On 3 March 1856, at the age of 31 he married Henrietta Behnke, age 44. The marriage took place in Cincinnati. They were married by Minister of the Gospel, Reverend Hermann Rust (12 Jefferson). Rev Rust info reference Williams 1857 Directory. Rev. Rust was Pastor of the First German Reformed Church, Betts Street, between John and Cutter Streets, in Cincinnati.

On 1 May 1860, August Bloedner purchases from Thomas B. McCullough, lots #99, 100, 101 and 102. These lots are located along Front Street in Columbia, Spencer Township, Hamilton County, Ohio. *Reference: Records of Deeds of Hamilton County, Book 145, page 50 and Book 266, page 88 for deed between August Bloedner and Thomas McCullough.*

On the 1860 census, Bloedner lists his occupation as Carpenter, his address was Columbia P.O., Spencer Township, Hamilton County, Ohio. The census lists his age as 35, spouse Henrietta age 48, a native of Hanover, Germany. Value of Real Estate: \$800.00. Value of Personal Estate: \$75.00.

21 August 1861 August joins the Union Army for 3 years at Cincinnati. Sent to Indianapolis, Indiana on 21 September 1861, a Private in Company I, 32d Indiana Infantry Regiment (First German).

December 1861 – January 1862, while stationed at Camp Willich, Bloedner carves a limestone monument in honor of his fallen comrades of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Indiana Infantry Regiment in their fight with Terry's Texas Rangers at Rowlett's Station, 17 December 1861. This monument is the first Civil War Monument in the Commonwealth of Kentucky, and eventually the oldest surviving Civil War monument in the United States.

*Note: A Private in Company A, 32<sup>nd</sup> Indiana Infantry, his name Blodier, Xavier, died at Munfordsville, KY., on 26 Dec 1861, could there be a connection with August?*

02 January 1862, Private Bloedner is transferred to Company F, 32d Indiana Infantry Regiment, by order of Colonel A. Willich. The Indiana Adjutant General's Report lists Bloedner (Blodner) as a Private in Co. I, transferred to Co F, 18 January 1862. Company F lists Bloedner as a Recruit, mustered out 07 September 1864.

31 January 1862, Indianapolis Journal, newspaper article:

“Colonel Willich's regiment has enclosed the crown of the knoll within whose earth lie its brave its brave companions, killed at the battle of Munfordville, with a paling fence. A large stone tablet has been laid in the center of the spot, upon which is inscribed, in German, the names and ages of the dead, and the manner in which they were killed. The national emblems surmount the inscriptions.”

January 1862 – Lieutenant Adolph Metzner, Company A, 32<sup>nd</sup> Indiana. Sketches a picture of the monument and the graves of the men of

the 32<sup>nd</sup>, killed at the Battle of Rowlett's Station. Metzner was mapmaker for the 32<sup>nd</sup>; he sketched over one hundred drawings of the 32<sup>nd</sup> from its muster in Indianapolis in 1861 to the Atlanta Campaign.

11 August to October 1862, Bloedner on recruiting duty in Indianapolis, Indiana.

January 1863, Bloedner is promoted to Sergeant, Company F, 32d Indiana Infantry Regiment.

20 September 1863, Bloedner is wounded on his right side at the Battle of Chickamauga, Georgia. He is sent to Hospital #4 in Nashville, Tennessee to recover. He rejoins Company F on 08 October 1863.

On 20 November 1863, Bloedner is promoted to First Sergeant of Company F.

Bloedner is mustered out of the service with the 3-year veterans of Company F, on 07 September 1864, at Indianapolis, Indiana.

Bloedner returns to Cincinnati following his military service. His name appears in the June 1869, Williams' Cincinnati City Directory, as August Bloetner, marble cutter, 12 East Mulberry, in Cincinnati.

The 1870 Census lists him as August Blutner. He is listed as being 44 years old; Stonecutter valued at \$2000.00/\$100.00 and born in Saxony. His wife Margaret was 46, keeping house born in France. Both had parents of foreign birth. No children listed.

*Note: Had to have been a mistake, unless they had hired someone to take care of the house, (Henrietta would have been 58 years old in 1870) which may have been what happened since following August's death Henrietta basically turned everything over to the Peppin's if they would take care of her for what was the remainder of her life, approximately 6 months after August's death.*

In the evening hours of 14 November 1872, Officer Strum of the Cincinnati Police Department finds Bloedner lying on the sidewalk at the corner of Third and Lawrence Streets in downtown Cincinnati. Bloedner is taken to hospital. He is seen by Dr. J.W. Underhill (432 John). He lives long enough to give his name and address before dying. A coroner's Inquest was conducted; ruling Bloedner had died of heart disease. John Kramer (1366 E. Front) was Bloedner's undertaker. Bloedner is listed as being buried at Carthage Road. Although he died on 14 November, cemetery records indicate that he was not buried until 14 December. *Reference: Hamilton County Death Records, Vol., 4, page 107, record #: 164. Records of the Vine Street Hill Cemetery.*

12 May 1873, Henrietta Bloedner (spelled Blutner in papers) age 71, widow of August Bloedner dies of Pneumonia. She is living with Clara and John Pepping (Williams' 1871 Directory lists: John Peppin, laborer, for Washington and Weeks) on Front Street in Columbia at the time of death. Her physician is Dr. H.A. Langdon (Wooster Pike, Columbia). As with her husband, John Kramer was the undertaker. She too is buried at Carthage Road.

*Reference: Hamilton County Death Records, Vol. 4, page 165, record #: 176.*

At the time of Bloedner's death the cemetery, which is now called, Vine Street Hill Cemetery was called, The German Evangelical Protestant Cemetery. The Bloedner's do not appear in the cemetery's card catalog, nor in a recently published book, listing burials in the cemetery. Additional research into the records determined that August and Henrietta were buried in Section 2, August in grave 537, Henrietta in grave 580. A 6 foot tall headstone with both August's name, date of birth and death on one side and placed as if marking his grave, and on one side Henrietta's name and date of death on the other, marks Henrietta's grave, August's is currently unmarked.

*Reference: Records of Vine Street Hill Cemetery.*

The Last Will and Testament of Henrietta Bloedner was filed with the Probate Court of Hamilton County, Ohio on 14 May 1873. It listed John Pepping as Executor with Clara and John Pepping as beneficiaries. *Reference: Wills filed with Probate Court of Hamilton County, Ohio, page 43.*

June 1867 – The remains of 21 soldiers along with the monument are moved to Cave Hill Cemetery.

*Reference: Rules and Regulations and a Historical Sketch of Cave Hill Cemetery, Louisville, Kentucky 1868, pages, 42-43. Roll of Honor .*

***Add info concerning celebration at Cave Hill and the base that was added to the monument by the German Citizens of Louisville.***

01 August 1867, Louisville Anzeiger. A newspaper add states that Mr. [Edward] Klauber had taken a picture of the monument that had been moved to Cave Hill Cemetery on June 6, 1867 and was offering them for sale for one dollar each.

***Trying to locate a copy of the photo.***

17 July 1997, The Adolph Bloettner Monument located in the National Cemetery Section of Cave Hill Cemetery is placed on the National Register of Historic Places (MPS 97000688). Research determines that the monument was in fact sculpted by August Bloedner of

the 32<sup>nd</sup> Indiana Infantry Regiment and is the oldest surviving Civil War monument in the United States. A request to change and update this information is submitted by John M. Trowbridge.

**Notes :**

1. *Clara Pepping appears on the Ohio 1880 Census (HMW1 059B) Check for marriage record of John & Clara Pepping looking for any connection to Henrietta. Check 1870 Ohio Census verify where they are living.*
2. *Locate info on Henrietta Bloedner, maiden name: Behnke or was she married prior?*
3. *Naturalization Information on August Bloedner and Henrietta Behnke when and where did they come to US.*
4. *Check with Marty Perry and see if correction has been made to the National Register.*